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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

March 20, 1963

Honorable Frederick G. Button
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Fred:

Thank you very much for your letter of March 15 with regard to the public release of my Cuban policy memorandum. I appreciate your advising me of the State Department's replies to Congressional inquiries on this subject, but in view of the comments in your letter, I want to be certain that you are fully informed of the situation.

My Cuba policy memorandum was delivered to Mr. John McCone, the Director of the CIA, on February 8th at a meeting in my office initiated by Mr. McCone at the President's behest. Mr. McCone advised me that the memorandum would be transmitted to the President and it was mutually agreed that the contents of the memorandum would not be disclosed until the President and his advisers had an opportunity to review my recommendations. On February 19th, I requested Mr. McCone's advice as to whether the President desired that the contents of the memorandum be kept confidential and he indicated that he would take this matter up with the President. On February 20th, Mr. McCone advised me that he had discussed the matter with the President that day. He stated that the President had made it clear that while public release of the memorandum was a matter for my own judgment, the President's view was that its release at that time might be harmful and might adversely affect the troop removal problem.

Although I did not wholly agree with this reasoning, I felt that I should defer to the President's view and have refrained from public discussion of my recommendations. However, now that some Soviet military personnel apparently have been withdrawn, I know of no reason not to disclose my recommendations and do plan to discuss them publicly in the near future.

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Honorable Frederick J. Johnson

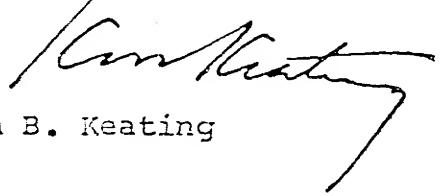
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March 20, 1953

I am grateful for this opportunity to clarify the situation and you may feel free to use the information in this letter in answering any further inquiries you receive on this subject.

With personal regards,

Very sincerely yours,


Kenneth B. Keating

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